Monitoring schemes by the Ministry of Rural Development

3297. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced a new initiative to monitor implementation of its schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such initiatives;

(c) whether it is also a fact that responsibilities of area officers have been streamlined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) A new initiative has been taken to strengthen the Monitoring and quality of implementation of Programmes of the Ministry by introducing a scheme of District Level Monitoring on pilot basis during 2001-02, with the objectives of (i) maintaining the flow of timely, authentic and reliable information about the performance of the programmes of the Ministry from the District level to the Ministry, (ii) obtaining qualitative feedback about the implementation and policy environment at the District level, and (iii) to check and verify the physical achievements.

(c) and (d) The Ministry have an Area Officers Scheme, in which all Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above have been appointed Area Officers for one or more States. The scheme has been streamlined recently to make it more effective. The Area Officers are required to visit the allocated State(s) regularly, with briefs regarding outstanding issues and details of proposals for clearance and release of funds under various Programmes. The Area Officers are also required to'visit the DRDAs and the State Headquarters (in addition to the selected villages) and help to expedite submission of proposals. In addition, they will find out the status of implementation of the 4-point programme and assess the impact of awareness generation programmes through electronic and print media, the Area Officers are also required to review the programme implementation and undertake physical verification of the assets created.